



A Study on the Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students in Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT: Environmental awareness is an approach to learning. The best way to promote awareness for environmental problems and promote environmentally accountable behaviours is through augmented access to environmental education. Education is essential for achieving environmental and moral awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour according to sustainable development and for effective public participation in decision-making. The study aimed to examine the environmental awareness among higher secondary school students. The investigator adopted survey method to study on the environmental awareness among higher secondary school students. For this study a sample of 300 higher secondary students from six Govt, Govt Aided and Private schools which are situated in and around Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu were selected by the investigator using simple random sampling technique. The findings reveal that there is no significant environmental awareness among higher secondary school students.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Awareness: Environmental Pollution: Higher Secondary School Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

Environment is defined as surrounding or conditions influencing development or growth. It can be understood as a system which includes all living and non-living things, i.e. air, water, soil, vegetation, flora and fauna. In simple words, environment means conditions of life. It is a physical and biotic habitat which surrounds us, that we can see, touch, smell, hear and feel. In the words of Anne Anastassi (1937), "The environment is everything that affects the life of an individual except his genes".

We live in the environment and it provides life supporting system to the human being. We use these environmental resources to meet our needs. Development additionally suggests that meeting the wants of the people. While meeting the ever-growing wants, we put pressure on the environment. When the pressure exceeds the carrying capability of the atmosphere to repair or replace itself, it creates a heavy drawback of environmental degradation. The environmental considerations on our planet have swollen dramatically in recent decades and square measure currently among the foremost serious challenges touching people's well-being round the globe. Moreover, these trends are likely to worsen in the absence of societal intervention. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address environmental degradation and preserve the environment for healthy living. Also it is needed to improve it qualitatively not only for the present but also for the future generations.

The education sector plays a very important role in creating environmental awareness by exposing the younger generation to the data, issues, analysis and interpretations on environment and development. Also by conducting various activities on environmental issues, we can create awareness and help in finding strategies to overcome these problems.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

David L. Hough [1] studied the "Environmental Ethics in Middle School Students: Analysis of the Moral Orientation of Student Responses to Environment Dilemmas".

Kuldeep Chavada & Dinesh Charan [2] did The present study aimed to study Environmental Awareness Ability of College Students in relation to their gender and level of education. Purposive sampling technique was used to select sample of 60 college students equally divided



according to the gender and level of education. The sample was selected from various college of Ahmadabad cities. Tools are like Environmental Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) (Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha) were used to measure Environmental Awareness Ability. The results were statistically analysed during 't' test. The findings revealed there is no significant difference was found among them with regard to gender and there insignificant difference was found among them with regard to level of education.

Lake, Flanagan and Osgood [3] made a descriptive analysis of trends in the environmental attitudes, beliefs and behaviour of high school seniors from 1976 to 2005. Across a range of indicators, environmental concerns of adolescents show increases during the early 1990s and declines across the remainder of the three decades.

Pandey.S [4] in his study on "Status of Environmental Education" has concluded that training of teachers into effective strategies for environmental components, both at the school and university level should be introduced as an integral part of the programmes of teacher education departments.

Sengupta, Madhumala [5] studied on the Environmental Awareness of the Environmentally Active and Passive Students in relation to Motivation and Academic Performance. (1) Environmental awareness may not always lead to environmental action. (2) The Science group students appear to be more active and so are the suburban students; (3) No difference was found in environmental awareness and action due to gender and academic performances. (4) The environmentally active and passive students differed in all levels of motivation.

III. OBJECTIVES

❖ GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- To find out Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary school students.

❖ SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To find out the impact of the personal variables such as Gender, Locality, Medium of Instruction, Type of School and Educational Qualifications of Parents based on Environmental Awareness among higher secondary school students.

IV. RESEARCH DESIGN

The investigator adopted survey method to study on the Environmental Awareness among

higher secondary school students. For this study a sample of 300 higher secondary school students from six Govt, Govt Aided and Private schools which are situated in and around Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu were selected by the investigator using simple random sampling technique.

RESEARCH TOOL

In the present study a tool on "A Study on the Environmental Awareness among higher secondary school students in Coimbatore District" had been adopted from Dhanya.C.H. (2017) for Environmental Awareness.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

- Mean
- SD
- T-test
- F-test

V. ANALYSES OF DATA

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Gender among Higher secondary school students.
2. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Locality among Higher secondary school students.
3. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Medium of Instruction among Higher secondary school students.
4. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Type of School among Higher secondary school students.
5. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Educational Qualification of Parents among Higher secondary school students.



HYPOTHESIS: 1

There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Gender among Higher secondary school students

S.NO.	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t -value	Level of significance
1.	Male	142	121.93	7.61	0.503	NS
2.	Female	158	122.39	8.15		

Table 5.1 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Gender among Higher secondary school students.

From the above table that the calculated 't'-value is 0.503 less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant.

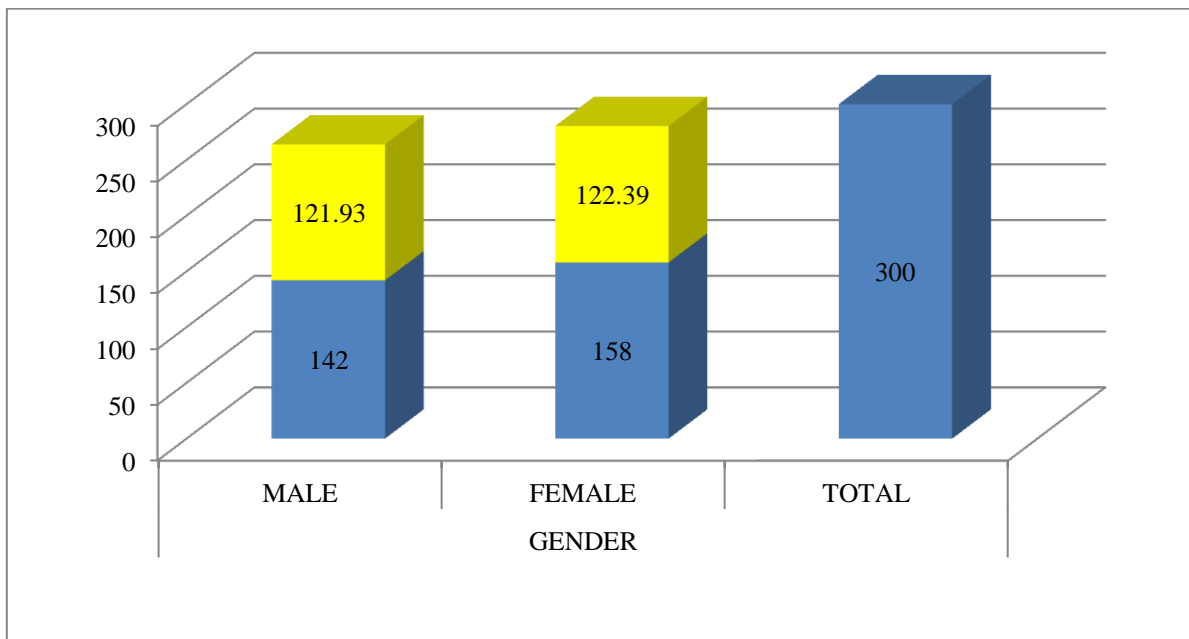


CHART 5.2 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Gender among Higher secondary school students.

Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness based on their Gender among Higher secondary school students and therefore the **null hypothesis 1 is accepted.**



HYPOTHESIS: 2

There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Locality among Higher secondary school students.

S.NO.	Locality	N	Mean	SD	t -value	Level of significance
1.	Rural	146	122.49	8.10	0.656	NS
2.	Urban	154	121.88	7.79		

Table 5.3 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Locality among Higher secondary school students.

From the above table that the calculated 't'-value is 0.656 less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant.

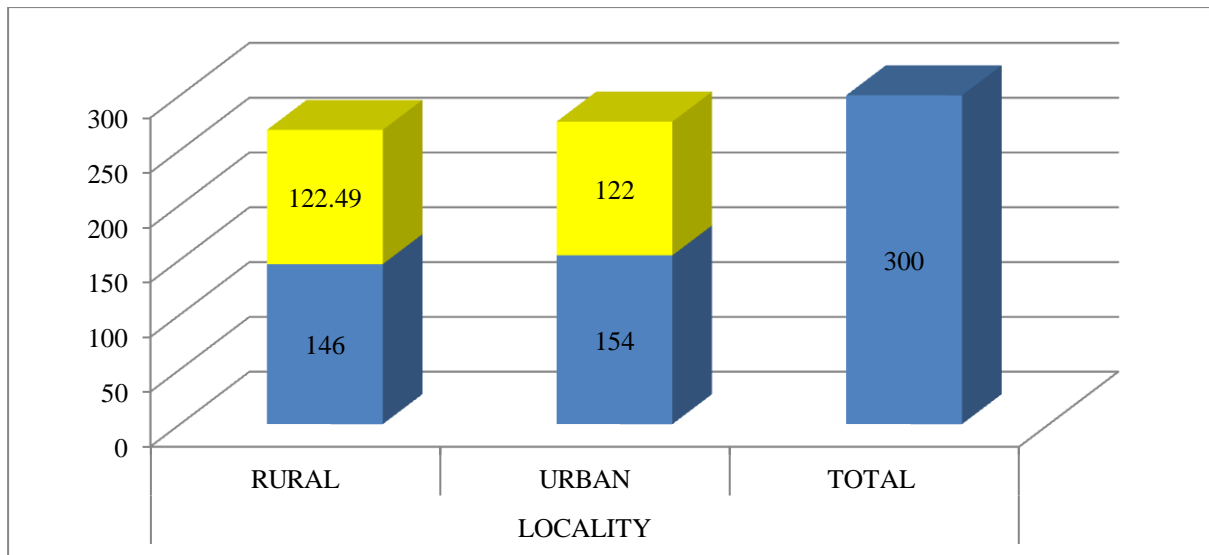


CHART 5.4 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Locality among Higher secondary school students.

Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Locality among Higher secondary school students and therefore **the null hypothesis is 2 accepted.**

HYPOTHESIS: 3

There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Medium of Instruction among Higher secondary school students.

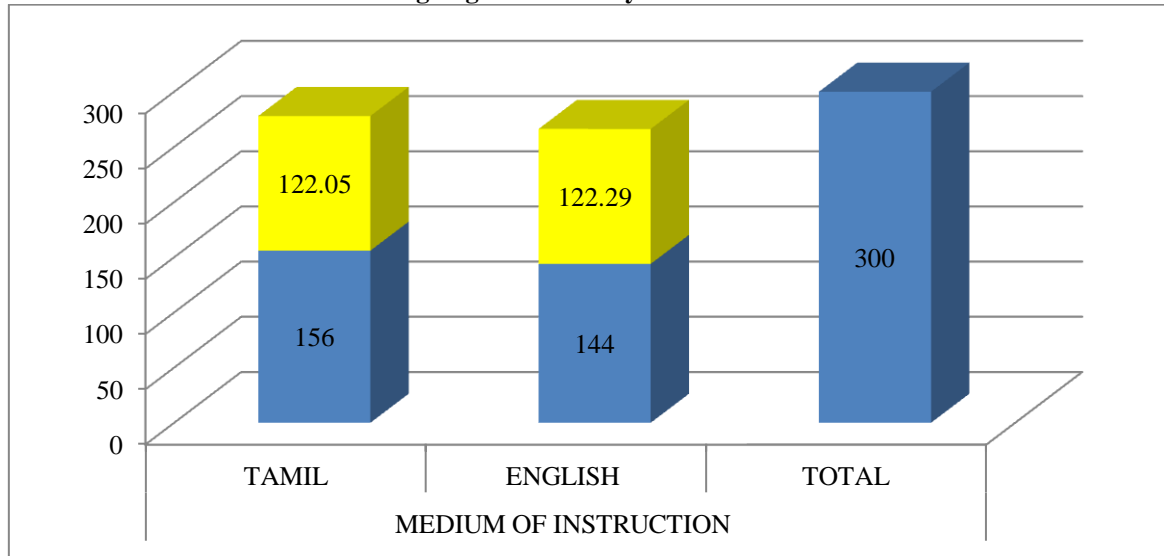
S.NO.	Medium of Instruction	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of significance
1.	Tamil	156	122.05	7.91	0.262	NS
2.	English	144	122.29	7.89		

Table 5.5 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Medium of Instruction among Higher secondary school students.



From the above table that the calculated 't'-value is 0.262 less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significant.

CHART 5.6 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Medium of Instruction among Higher secondary school students.



Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Medium of Instruction among Higher secondary school students and therefore the **null hypothesis 3 is accepted.**

HYPOTHESIS: 4

There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Type of School among Higher secondary school students.

Factor	Sources of variation	Sum of squares	Df	Mean Square	f-value	Level of significance
Type of School	Between	229.58	2	114.79	1.854	NS
	Within	18388.75	297	61.915		

Table 5.7 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Type of School among Higher secondary school students.

From the above table that the calculated 'f'-value is 1.854 less than the table value 3.00 at 0.05 level of significant.

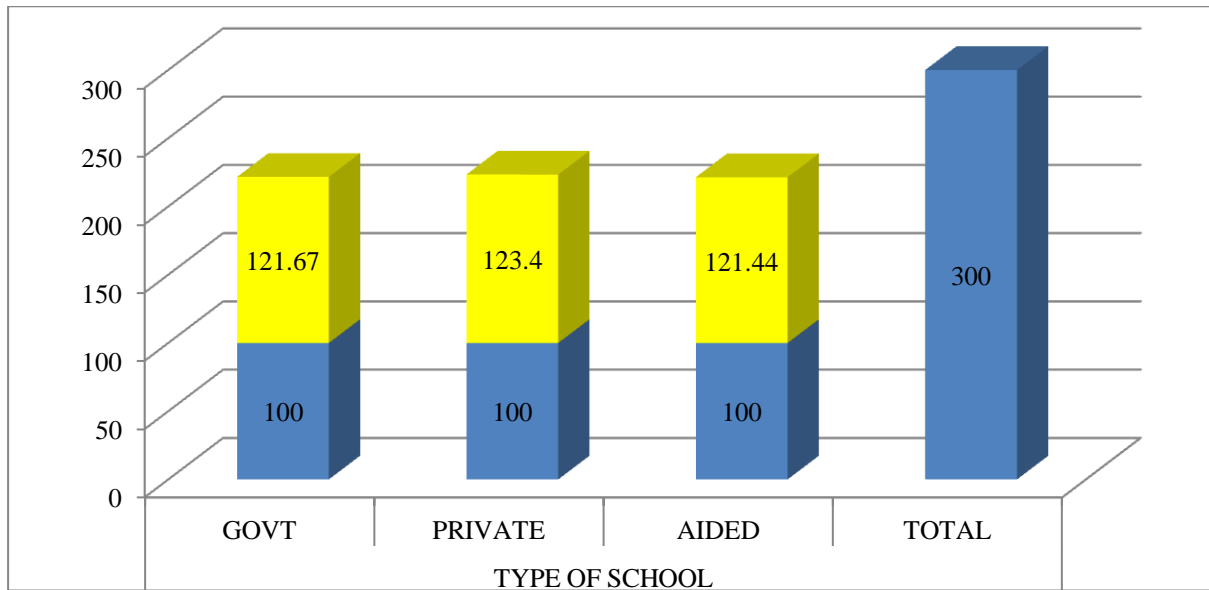


CHART 5.8 Mean score difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Type of School among Higher secondary school students.

Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Type of School among Higher secondary school students and therefore the **null hypothesis 4 is accepted.**

HYPOTHESIS: 5

There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Educational Qualification of Parents among Higher secondary school students.

Factor	Sources of variation	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	f -value	Level of significance
Educational qualification of parents	Between	3.878	2	1.939	0.031	NS
	Within	18614.45	297	62.675		

Table 5.9 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Educational Qualification of Parents among Higher secondary school students.

From the above table that the calculated 'f'-value is 0.031 less than the table value 3.00 at 0.05 level of significant.

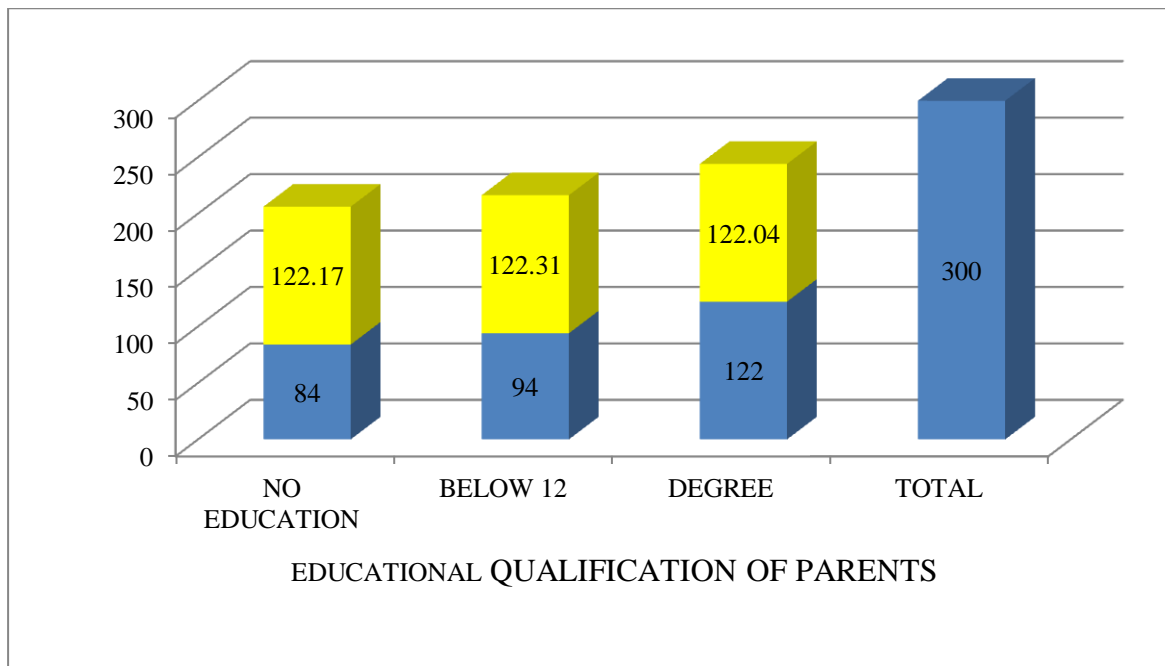


CHART 5.10 Mean score Difference in Environmental Awareness based on their Educational Qualification of Parents among Higher secondary school students.

Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness based on their Educational Qualification of Parents among Higher secondary school students and therefore the **null hypothesis 5 is accepted.**

V. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

A Study on the Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students in Coimbatore District was studied and the findings reveal that the difference of large majority of higher secondary school students was found moderate level of difference in Environmental Awareness.

Gender, Locality, Medium of Instruction, Type of School and Educational Qualification of Parents has no influence in Environmental Awareness.

1. Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness based on their Gender among Higher secondary school students and therefore the null hypothesis 1 is accepted.
2. Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness based on their Locality among Higher secondary school students and therefore the null hypothesis 2 is accepted.
3. Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness

based on their Medium of Instruction among Higher secondary school students and therefore the null hypothesis 3 is accepted.

4. Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness based on their Type of School among Higher secondary school students and therefore the null hypothesis 4 is accepted.
5. Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness based on their Educational Qualification of Parents among Higher secondary school students and therefore the null hypothesis 5 is accepted.

VI. CONCLUSION

Overall, the present study concluded that higher secondary school students were found to have moderated level of Environmental Awareness. Gender, Locality, Medium of Instruction, Type of School and Educational Qualification of Parents has no significant impact of a study on the Environmental Awareness among higher secondary school students. Higher secondary school students have sufficient knowledge but it is necessary to



conduct Environmental Awareness programme, various activities like tree plantation, visit to Environmental places, attending workshops and guest lecturers in schools to improve the level of Environmental Awareness among students.

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